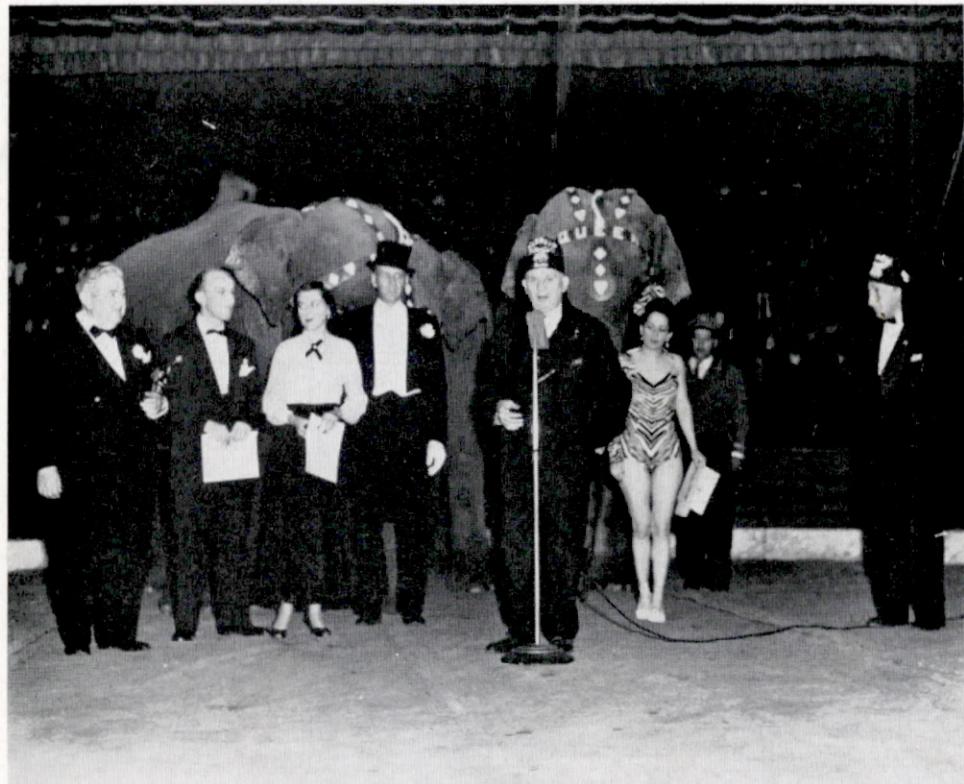


C. H. S.

BANDWAGON

Vol. 7, No. 4-5—APRIL-MAY ISSUE, 1952

15¢



Left to right: Prof. Henry Kyes, band leader; Neal Boyd, Edythe Boyd, Slivers Madison, Dr. C. S. Karland Frischhorn, Jo Madison, Frenchy and Nate Lewis.

The Circusiana Magazine

C. H. S.

Bandwagon

P. O. Box 235
Richmond, Indiana

APRIL-MAY ISSUE, 1952
Vol. 7 No. 4-5

Editor - Publisher
AGNES W. KING

Associate Editors
JOHN C. KUNZOG
CHARLIE DUBLE

Staff Writers
WILLIAM KASISKA
BILL GREEN
JOSEPH T. BRADBURY
ALLEN P. WESCOTT
JAKE POSEY
TOM PARKINSON
EDWARD W. CRIPPS

Staff Photographers
CLARENCE SHANK
JOHNY VOGELSANG

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DO YOU KNOW HIM?

Ann: "Daddy, do you know Mr. Ferris?"

Bob: "Do you mean Bill Ferris, down at the drug store?"

Ann: "No Daddy, I mean the one who is a big wheel on the carnival."

The Editor Says

Convention time is drawing near. It seems that only a few of us can get to the conventions—most of us only when it is held in our near vicinity. That does not mean that the convention goers forget that they are only a small portion of the whole membership. Wouldn't it be nice if everyone could be there—maybe television would make it possible for all to see—but, of course, that's not practical, so why doesn't everyone write a card to someone who is going to attend so that it can be read as a sort of roll call. You could send it to me, the Secretary, Bette Leonard, or to Bill Kasiska in Baraboo.

The small circuses seem to be having a tough struggle this year. Are you doing all you can to help them when they come to town or are within driving distance? Lots of times just a friendly sympathetic ear is a big help when things are really rough.

REMEMBER!

C. H. S. CONVENTION
AT BARABOO, WISC.

JULY 10-11-12

See You In Baraboo

CHS President Honored Again

By Dana Stevens

Sixteen circus lovers banded together in Wichita, Kansas, April 23, 1952, to honor the C.H.S. President in forming the Bette Leonard Tent of the Circus Fans' Association of America.

The fans met at the home of Brace A. Helfrich, who was just recently elected vice-president for the western division of the Circus Fans' Association.

The Wichita Eagle Daily Newspaper immediately ran a story with picture on Bette and her previous association with almost every major circus in the United States.

The Bette Leonard Tent circulated a booklet among its members which had a picture of Bette and her animal act.

A later issue of the Wichita Eagle contained a story concerning Bette's trip to Gainesville, Texas, May 9, to attend the annual convention of the Circus Fans' Association which was held in conjunction with Gainesville's annual circus roundup and the opening of the nationally famous Gainesville community circus, owned by the town and staged by its citizens.

News From Pennsylvania

Sent in by Wm. H. Walton, No. 95

The Big One, will not play Pittsburgh, Pa., (Hiedelberg) this season. Even the old timers, cannot recall, when the annual visit was not scheduled. Reason assigned, a "bottle neck" in auto traffic, as a result in the progress of new State Highway project, which cuts in on attendance, as the site is some distance from downtown.

It was an ideal location. Parking facilities, for a thousand cars. Two seasons ago was the most profitable of the tour. Youngstown, Ohio, 65 miles from here is the nearest point it will play to this city.

King Bros. and Mills Bros., at present playing in our midst. However, the Homestead, Pa. date line, May 8, is rather misleading. The lot is in another community, west Mifflin Boro, about 6 miles away!

NEW MEMBERS

Ed Gollmar, No. 506
P. O. Box 334
Baraboo, Wisc.

Doris Condon, No. 507
R. R. 3,
Logansport, Ind.

Harold W. Gorsuch, No. 508
R. R. 1,
Miamisburg, Ohio

Ben C. Truex, No. 509
217 S. Water St.,
Wichita 2, Kansas

Brace A. Helfrich, No. 510
141 Brookside Parkway,
Wichita, Kansas

Florence Stancliff, No. 511
1911 North Bend
Houston 6, Texas

CHS Member Enjoys Circus in Japan

Sent in by Pfc. Earl H. Chevrette, No. 440

E. K. Fernandez ALL AMERICAN CIRCUS is now currently touring Japan. I have caught one of the many performances, which I say is one of the top notch shows.

Show is a 3-Ring affair.

Opening number—Spec "Grand Entry"—Following into steel ring and top notch acts such as Frank Philips' Pumas and Tigers, the Great Cepler Family of the High Wire; Mildred's Wlebes, Performing Monkeys; the riding Duttons, "The Act Beautiful," the Belfords, Acrobats-Wrisley Act, the wonder seals, by Captain Guy Leslie; tons of elephants, presented by Miss Dolly Jacobs; Dewayne's acrobats.

All these are in ring two (center) with many top notch performers in the other two rings.

Show closes with a finale of "Fred Valentine and his Sensational Flyers."

There are many animals on the show such as horses, seals, monkeys, elephants, dogs, mules, chimps, tigers and lions.

The show has been playing here in Tokyo two weeks, and I believe it runs for two or three more. Show was sold out two weeks in advance with performances at 1, 3 and 5. The show has been playing to capacity crowds at all performances. I don't know where the show will go from here but believe it'll be somewhere in Japan. It was a beautiful show and every act a thriller. A must for every C. H. S. Fan.

C. H. S. MEMBERS IN SERVICE

IN . . . Earl H. Chevrette (would like to hear from members)



AF 16343118
1956th AAC SQ
APO 925 c/o PM
San Francisco, Calif.

OUT . . . Raymond Heim



3232 N. 27th Street
Milwaukee, Wisconsin

BACK IN THE STATES

Albert Conover (home address)

R. R. ,
Xenia, Ohio

Tom Mix Circus 1936 Coast to Coast Tour

By Joseph T. Bradbury, No. 442

NOWHERE in the annals of motorized show history can there be found a more memorable tour than the 1936 coast to coast trek of the Tom Mix Circus. For the first time in show history a transcontinental tour of a motorized show was accomplished. It definitely brought the truck show into its own. Even today, sixteen years later with better highways and better equipment, a coast to coast tour of a motorized show is a rare thing. Off hand I can't even think of another one in recent years. However King Bros. Circus in 1949 might be considered one as they traveled from Macon, Georgia to the Pacific coast and back again.

The late Tom Mix who was the "Hop-along Cassidy" and even more so of an earlier generation, had his first taste of circus ownership in 1934 when he became a partner of Sam B. Dill in the latter's circus which had been on the road for a few years. In 1934 the show took to the road under the title "Sam B. Dill's Circus and Tom Mix Wild West Combined," but before the end of the season Mix bought out Dill and toured the show under the name of Tom Mix Wild West & Circus Combined. Later the title was shortened to Tom Mix Circus and this title was used until the show went broke in 1938, and was sold out piecemeal.

The Mix show paraded in 1934 and 1935. It was the 1935 parade that had the elephant ride the parade in a truck. Who can forget August 6, 1935 in Sandusky, Ohio, when the Tom Mix Circus day and dated the new Cole Bros. Circus? On that day both street parades went out, Mix parade down one street, and the Cole parade down another. However all was friendly. No paper was pulled or covered by either show and at their matinee both shows asked that their patrons attend the rival show's evening performance.

Tom Mix was never afraid of a circus fight, even though he was friendly in his opposition. He fought the Al G. Barnes Circus up the Pacific coast on two occasions, and took on Cole, Russell, and anyone else if the time arose.

The Mix show spent the 1935-36 winter at Compton, Calif. For the 1936 season the street parade was discontinued even though one was given on opening day. The Downie Bros. Circus. Mix

only rival for motorized show supremacy, also discontinued their street parade for 1936.

Mix enlarged his show considerably for the 1936 season. All canvas was brand new except the menagerie top. The big top was a thing of beauty. It was a 150 ft. round top with 3 fifty foot middle pieces. The side walls, marquee, and curtains were red and white striped. Also menagerie, side show, and cook-house side walls were red and white. Poles were painted white and blue. According to this reporter's record the Mix big top was the largest ever carried by a motorized show.

The motorized equipment was excellent. No show past or present has ever had better equipment than did the Mix show in 1936. Motorized equipment for the most part consisted of about 65 new Ford tractors and semi-trailers with a few straight trucks. All trucks were handsomely painted white with title in red and blue lettering. Cages that year also carried out the same color scheme. Even the performers and staff's living quarters trailers were uniform and were painted red, white, and blue. The show was a comfort for the workingman that year. Several large sleeping tents with new collapsible special cots were carried. These tents were the last to be taken down and loaded in the early morning.

The show traveled in six or seven different convoys in the early morning hours.

Ted Metz was side show manager and had a new 145 x 22 top, with all new artistically painted banners.

The Tom Mix Circus was heavy on fine horses and almost 100 head of horses and ponies were carried. Several large semi-trailers were used to transport them. Most of these horses and ponies were housed in the menagerie tent. The rest of the menagerie was the only weak spot of the entire show. Five rather small cages, all straight trucks, were carried. Lineup of cages as follows: (1) contained 8 monkeys and 2 baboons; (2) contained 1 lion; (3) contained 1 lion; (4) contained 2 deer; (5) contained dogs. Three elephants and one zebra completed the menagerie. The cages were very attractive. All carried the title and some had carvings on the skyboards.

Staff was as follows: Tom Mix, owner; D. E. Turney, manager; P. N. Branson, general agent; Rhoda Royal, equestrian director; and D. W. Helms, superintendent. Carl Robinson lead a good 12 piece circus band.

The performance in addition to the main feature, Tox Mix, himself and Tony Jr., included famous performers such as the Riding Hobsons, Erma Ward, and the Flying Arbaughs, which included some of the most famous flyers of all time.

Max Gruber's Jungle Oddities was on the show and was presented in the performance with a pleasing routine featuring an elephant, zebra, and Great Dane dog.

The 1936 performance was as follows: Display No.

1. Spec—"Parade of the Royal Mounted." The first two displays were specs and most colorful. There were 82 mounted people in the 1st and 24 in the second.

2. Spec—"Entry of the Garlands." Staged by Rhoda Royal.

3. Performing dogs and monkeys in 3 rings presented by Homer Hobson, Helen Ford, and Joe Bowers.

4. Swinging ladders. (20 girls).

5. Clowns.

6. Lady riding acts with Del Herberto, Mlle Lorenzo, and Ella Davenport.

7. Introduction of Tom Mix.

8. Lady polo riders. Helen Ford and Company.

9. Clowns. Boxing number.

10. Head balancing on revolving trapeze. Charley Arley.

11. Les Cotelettis Troupe of comedy acrobats.

12. Irma Ward, aerialist.

13. Tom Mix's Own Company of Cowboys and Horses. Tom gave an excellent riding and shooting exhibition, firing at stationary and moving objects, and lying on his back shooting out light bulbs on an erected dome.

14. Clowns funny ford act.

15. Perch and trapeze acts in 3 rings.

16. Rhoda Royals Liberty Horses and ponies in 3 rings.

17. Single trapeze acts with Johnny Jordan, Albert Powell, and George Arley.

18. Max Grubers, "Oddities of the Jungle."

19. Bell-Jordan-Marks troupe of acrobats in 3 rings.

20. Famous Riding Hobsons.

21. Toreadors from Old Mexico.

22. Clowns.

23. The Flying Arbaughs on double rigging. Flying return act. Flyers included Jim Arbaugh, Erma Ward, Vera Bruce, Bettie McVeight, and catchers were Harold Ward and Bud Asher.

The performance was very good and was one of the best ever given by the Mix show. No movie star, past or present has ever even come near to matching the terrific appeal to the kids that Mix did. Although he had appeared in very few films in the last five or six years he was still very well known by the kids and their fathers as well.

The Tom Mix Circus opened the 1936 season at Compton, Calif., on March 11, and then streaked northward up the Pacific coast. The first 54 days of the season the show was in California and 107 consecutive performances were given. Mix was the first show in San Francisco that year and had a good 4 day stand, April 2-5. Opposition with the Al G. Barnes Circus was encountered at many California stands but despite this opposition business was consistently good.

The official log of the circus records the California tour as thus:

"Racing up the coast, weaving back into the San Joaquin and Sacramento valleys, cutting through the mists of the Golden Gate, shadowed by the leafy giants of the Big Tree Country, not a single performance was lost in the sun-kist State. All were one-day stands except San Francisco, Oakland, Alameda, and Eureka. In the last named place two night shows were given, but only one matinee. This, however, was in accord with the original schedule and due to a long mountain jump in reaching the stand."

The show entered Oregon, May 4, at Grants Pass and played nine stands in the state. At Medford, May 5, the closest opposition of the season was encountered, with the Al G. Barnes Circus scheduled in the next day. The Medford stand nevertheless was good, as were all Oregon stands.

Cutting across Oregon, Mix entered Idaho on May 14 at Emmett, to good business. This territory had been rather barren of circuses in recent years, and welcomed the Mix show with open arms. Next day at Boise the first turnaway of the season occurred. Nampa, Glenn's Ferry, and Twin Falls gave heavy patronage at matinees and night shows.

May 19 at Burley, Idaho, was an unforgettable day. It was the day of the blowdown. The official log records the event as follows:

"Filmy wisps of rasping, sandy dust clouds greeted the show on its arrival in this city at six o'clock on the morning of Tuesday, May 19th. Low flung, for-

bidding cloud banks hid the sun from view, and the wind and dust increased with each passing hour."

"A short time after the matinee performance, the wind suddenly tore loose with a triumphant blast of elemental fury and, like a wailing banshee riding in a hideous nightmare of flying dust, ripped its meteoric way across the city and the circus lot where, unleashing a final burst of pent-up savagery, it flattened the menagerie top."

"Working desperately, heroically, to round-up fractious animals and to prevent further damage to circus properties, the male contingent of the show waged a grim and victorious battle with the elements in this trying hour. Seat planks, poles, jack and stringers were thrown through the air like so much confetti. Tom Mix sustained a painful injury when his left shoulder was struck by a flying grandstand platform and three other employees were victims of minor injuries during this session with the wind. No townspeople were harmed in this circus tragedy."

"With dust so thick that visibility was reduced to a distance of less than one hundred feet, the big top was lowered and the night performance cancelled as a matter of precaution."

"The cancellation of the night performance at Burley, Idaho, marks the only scheduled performance to be lost during the entire tour."

The show entered Wyoming, May 24, at Kemmerer, and other stands in that state were Rock Springs, Rawlins, Laramie, and Cheyenne. After Wyoming, then Colorado for a stand at Greeley, May 29, and Sterling, May 30.

The longest run of the season was from Sterling, Colo., to Hays, Kansas, a Sunday distance of 307 miles. Seven Kansas stands followed and Mix pulled into Kansas City, Mo., for a two day stand June 8-9. This two day stand turned out to be slightly terrific, with packed houses at all performances. Both press and public were lavish in their praise of the circus. St. Joseph, Mo., June 10, was also a banner day.

Leaving Missouri, 4 stands were played in Iowa, at Shenadoah, Atlantic, Carroll, and Sioux City, after which the drough area of South Dakota was invaded with surprising and gratifying results. Five cities, Mitchell, Huron, Aberdeen, Brookings, and Sioux Falls were visited and gave average business.

The circus then returned to Iowa for five stands and then crossed the Mississippi into Illinois and played Moline and Aurora.

The outstanding stand for any motorized show was played June 29-July 8 by Mix at the Coliseum in Chicago. This indoor stand was sponsored by Goldblatt Bros. Department Stores. The stand was a record smasher, and one of the greatest ballyhoos for a circus was put on to advertise the show. A total of 24 newspapers carried advertising and 92 feature stories and 76 pieces of art were printed. Two hundred 24 sheet billboards were used, and 12,000 sheets of paper were posted. Goldblatt Bros. themselves printed and distributed 2 million 42 page rotogravure heralds advertising the Tom Mix Circus. Business was phenomenal, and 172,875 people saw the show in the 10 day engagement. Two turnaways were recorded.

The canvas tour resumed July 9 at Elkhart, Indiana. Then the show quickly jumped across Indiana and Ohio, entering Pennsylvania, July 15, at Meadville. Two days later it was in New York for twenty stands. The best business of the canvas season was had in New York State.

Stanford, Conn., was played August 10, and the transcontinental journey was complete. The first ever accomplished by a motorized circus.

For the next three weeks Mix was in Conn., Rhode Island, and Mass.

On August 31, the circus was in the metropolitan area of New York for a two day stand at Newark, N. J., and one day each in Jersey City and Elizabeth.

Back into Pennsylvania, Sept. 4 at Easton, and after 4 other stands in that state, the circus headed below the Mason-Dixon line and South fast.

A quick week brought the show into the North Carolina tobacco season at Raleigh, Sept. 14. Other North Carolina stands were at Durham, Burlington, Greensboro, Winston-Salem, and Statesville. Mix crossed into South Carolina for two stands, Sept. 22 at Spartanburg, and Sept. 23 at Anderson, and then into Georgia, Sept. 24 at Athens. This writer caught and reviewed the circus at Athens.

The show entered Georgia in the midst of a sudden epidemic of infantile paralysis, and it was necessary to rearrange the route almost overnight. Mix was scheduled to enter Florida for 16 stands and was to have closed the season there, but these unforeseen circumstances caused that part of the route to be changed. After three other Georgia stands at Macon, Dublin, and Savannah, the show backtracked into South Carolina for five stands and back into North Carolina for 12 more.

Mix was as far North as Norfolk, Va., for stands Oct. 19-20. Other Virginia stands were at Portsmouth, Petersburg,

Lynchburg, Roanoke, Pulaski, and Marion, and the show entered Tennessee on the last lap of the tour Oct. 28 at Kingsport. Five other Tenn. stands followed, another Georgia stand at Rome, Nov. 4, and to Anniston, Alabama, Nov. 5 for the closing date. Show went into winter quarters at Anniston, Ala., after c 35 week, 12,236 mile tour. Business on the entire tour was good, with the show getting good press and public notices at every stand.

For the 1936 season we have said before that the Downie Bros. Circus was Tom Mix's only rival as to having the largest motorized show. Both shows were at their peak that year so perhaps a little comparison would be in order here. It was this writer's privilege to catch both Mix and Downie that year.

No doubt Mix had the larger physical layout. It looked larger on the lot. Its 150 with the three 50's big top compared favorably with both the Cole and Barnes Circuses. In fact I believe all three of those circuses had exactly the same size tops that year. The Downie big top was smaller, about 110 with

three 40's. Downie and Mix both had practically the same number of vehicles, however Mix had more of the larger semi-trailer type trucks than Downie. Mix had more horses, but Downie was far superior in the menagerie. Downie had 9 elephants, 4 camels, and 9 cages with a good variety of leopards, tigers, bears, lions, sea lions, monkeys, and kangaroos. Downie had probably the better balanced animal performance, while Mix had more aerial acts, including a flying act, which Downie did not have. Neither show had a cat act. The Tom Mix personal drawing power was stronger than anything Downie had, but a Charlie Sparks owned circus could never be cut out in its regular established territory. I won't make a definite statement as to which show I believe was the stronger, because I must confess I am always prejudiced when comparing a Charlie Sparks owned circus to any other one. So, I'll let you readers decide for yourselves but I think you will all agree with me, those who saw both the Mix and Downie shows in 1936, you saw two of the best motorized circuses of all time.

Announcement Extraordinary . . .

TO COLLECTORS AND MODEL BUILDERS

Circus Wagon Photographs

This is first and exclusive offering of the collection taken by W. C. Sommerville and C. J. Baker of the Baker & Lockwood Mfg. Co. "The Tent Show Builders" during the years 1900 to 1910.

RINGLING BROS. — CARL HAGENBECK — SELLS-FLOTO

GENTRY BROS. — 101 RANCH WILD WEST

PAWNEE BILL WILD WEST — CAMPBELL BROS.

NORRIS & ROWE — ADAM FOREPAUGH

SELLS BROS — ETC.

They are close up parade shots showing wagons and horses, riders and a few lot scenes. Taken when the parade and fine carved wagons were in their prime.

I am pleased to make these selected photographs available to collectors and model builders and many friends who have obtained photos from my collection.

Pre-viewed and recommended by Col. W. H. Woodcock,
CHS, CFA, CMB&OA

SEND 6¢ FOR DESCRIPTIVE LIST

J. W. BEGGS

7125 Park Rd. Eastwood Hills, KANSAS CITY 3, MO.

The Great Jewel Robbery or What Did Clarence Do With the Watches!

On the nite of March 30, 1952, the leading jewelry store in Uhrichsville, Ohio, was robbed. From all appearances it was a well cased job and the police of that Eastern Ohio metropolis were baffled.

On that same day, the Walter L. Maine Tent of CFA had a Spring Roundup, to which our friend Clarence Shank wended his merry way. Clarence had a big day—he had lots of fun and he didn't get back to the hotel 'till the small hours of Monday morning.

Came the dawn, and the police discovered the Great Jewel Robbery! They came to the conclusion that it had taken place between midnight and 7 in the morning—which of course was a masterpiece of deduction. Then began the investigation. Clarence had arisen early, and started back to Camden. Some trustworthy citizen told the arm of the law that he had seen a small-like man hanging around the jewelry store on Sunday. Said copper asked at the hotel if they had had anyone registered there who answered the description. The clerk immediately let his thoughts light on Clarence—as who wouldn't! BUT it was not until Tuesday nite that anything was done about it.

In the late hours of Tuesday nite, or maybe it was early Wednesday morning, Clarence was summoned to the phone, and lo and behold, it was the Chief of Police at Uhrichsville. He asked Clarence a lot of questions—why he had been there, what he was doing, and lastly, who he had been with. Clarence told him he had been with Floyd McClintock, and the Chief said, "Oh, that big Moose, OK." and he hung up. And Clarence burnt up. HE to be suspected of robbing a jewelry store—it was unthinkable! He blew his top to everyone in town; and the longer it went on, the madder he got. Can you blame him?

But, every story has a happy ending, and a few days later Clarence received a letter from the Mayor and Chief of Police of Uhrichsville, offering their apology for even suspecting him of the crime. No word of a sale of watches at Shank's Variety Store (Adv.) at the time the Bandwagon went to press.

PRESENTATION AT NORFOLK

The picture and cut for this issue's cover were furnished by our good friend Dr. Karland Frischkorn. This picture was taken in Norfolk, Virginia, on April 3, 1952, at the time of presentation of honorary membership certificates and cards to Neal Boyd, Edythe Boyd, Slivers Madison and Jo Madison. They are with Polack Bros. Shrine Circus.

A hearty welcome to these new members.

CORRECTION

In the March issue, on page 13, we stated "Sent in by Louis Hayek, Toledo, Ohio." This should have read, "Toledo, Iowa."

—Bandwagon, April-May Issue, 1952—Page 9

J. H. LaPearl Shows Official Route, Season of 1897

Sent in by Charles E. Duble, Associate Editor, Bandwagon

Small railroad show on road from about 1893 to 1898. Headquarters were at Danville, Illinois. One ring performance. Menagerie of two elephants, one hippo, one camel, and 10 cross cages of animals. Closing stand home run to Danville, 408 miles. Total mileage for season 6,749 miles. The bandleader was H. A. Vandercook of Allegan, Mich., who was the composer of about 50 or more fine numbers for military band. His music played by the best bands. His band was one of the **advertised features of the LaPearl Show.**

APRIL

- 17—Danville, Illinois
- 18—Danville, Illinois
- 19—Danville, Illinois
- 20—Attica, Indiana
- 21—Lafayette, Indiana
- 22—Lafayette, Indiana
- 23—Shelbyville, Indiana
- 24—Greensburg, Indiana
- 25—(Sunday)
- 26—Rushville, Indiana
- 27—Knightstown, Indiana
- 28—Marion, Indiana
- 29—Wabash, Indiana
- 30—North Manchester, Indiana

MAY

- 1—Warsaw, Indiana
- 2—(Sunday)
- 3—Goshen, Indiana
- 4—South Bend, Indiana
- 5—South Bend, Indiana
- 6—Elkhart, Indiana
- 7—Three Rivers, Michigan
- 8—Kalamazoo, Michigan
- 9—(Sunday)
- 10—Battle Creek, Michigan
- 11—Marshall, Michigan
- 12—Albion, Michigan
- 13—Jackson, Michigan
- 14—Jackson, Michigan
- 15—Lansing, Michigan
- 16—(Sunday)
- 17—Owosse, Michigan
- 18—Saginaw, Michigan
- 19—Saginaw, Michigan
- 20—Bay City, Michigan
- 21—Bay City, Michigan
- 22—Vassar, Michigan
- 23—(Sunday)
- 24—LaPeer, Michigan
- 25—Oxford, Michigan
- 26—Monroe, Michigan
- 27—Morenci, Michigan
- 28—Adrian, Michigan

29—Hudson, Michigan

- 30—(Sunday)
- 31—Hillsdale, Michigan

JUNE

- 1—Coldwater, Michigan
- 2—Angola, Indiana
- 3—Kendallville, Indiana
- 4—Auburn, Indiana
- 5—Fort Wayne, Indiana
- 6—(Sunday)
- 7—Bluffton, Indiana
- 8—Montpelier, Indiana
- 9—Muncie, Indiana
- 10—Red Key, Indiana
- 11—Portland, Indiana
- 12—Celina, Ohio
- 13—(Sunday)
- 14—St. Mary's, Ohio
- 15—Lima, Ohio
- 16—Bluffton, Ohio
- 17—Findlay, Ohio
- 18—Fostoria, Ohio
- 19—Fremont, Ohio
- 20—(Sunday)
- 21—Sandusky, Ohio
- 22—Elyria, Ohio
- 23—Norwalk, Ohio
- 24—Elmore, Ohio
- 25—Wauseon, Ohio
- 26—Butler, Indiana
- 27—(Sunday)
- 28—Mishawaka, Indiana
- 29—LaPorte, Indiana
- 30—Plymouth, Indiana

JULY

- 1—Rochester, Indiana
- 2—Peru, Indiana
- 3—Kokomo, Indiana
- 4—(Sunday)
- 5—Tipton, Indiana
- 6—Frankfort, Indiana
- 7—Crawfordsville, Indiana
- 8—Rockville, Indiana

9—Terre Haute, Indiana
 10—Martinsville, Illinois
 11—(Sunday)
 12—Highland, Illinois
 13—Collinsville, Illinois
 14—Vandalia, Illinois
 15—Assumption, Illinois
 16—Clinton, Illinois
 17—Mount Pulaski, Illinois
 18—(Sunday)
 19—Farmer City, Illinois
 20—Paxton, Illinois
 20—Paxton, Illinois
 21—Pontiac, Illinois
 22—La Salle, Illinois
 23—Freeport, Illinois
 24—Rockford, Illinois
 25—(Sunday)
 26—Dyersville, Iowa
 27—Independence, Iowa
 28—Waterloo, Iowa
 29—Manchester, Iowa
 30—Dubuque, Iowa
 31—Leon, Iowa

AUGUST

1—(Sunday)
 2—Dixon, Illinois
 3—El Paso, Illinois
 4—Maroa, Illinois
 5—Atlanta, Illinois
 6—Arthur, Illinois
 7—Oakland, Illinois
 8—(Sunday)
 9—Paris, Illinois
 10—Decatur, Illinois
 11—Delavan, Illinois
 12—Pekin, Illinois
 13—Havana, Illinois
 14—Petersburg, Illinois
 15—(Sunday)
 16—Virginia, Illinois
 17—Roodhouse, Illinois
 18—Jerseyville, Illinois
 19—Alton, Illinois
 20—Bunker Hill, Illinois
 21—Hillsboro, Illinois
 22—(Sunday)
 23—Nokomis, Illinois
 24—Shelbyville, Illinois
 25—Windsor, Illinois
 26—Mattoon, Illinois
 27—Marshall, Illinois
 28—Lawrenceville, Illinois
 29—(Sunday)
 30—Mt. Carmel, Illinois
 31—Vincennes, Indiana

SEPTEMBER

1—Sullivan, Indiana
 2—Mt. Vernon, Indiana
 3—Princeton, Indiana
 4—Jasper, Indiana
 5—(Sunday)
 6—Croydon, Indiana
 7—Cannelton, Indiana
 8—Rockport, Indiana
 9—Booneville, Indiana

10—Oakland City, Indiana
 11—Fairfield, Illinois
 12—(Sunday)
 13—Mount Vernon, Illinois
 14—Centralia, Illinois
 15—Carbondale, Illinois
 16—Mound City, Illinois
 17—Cairo, Illinois
 18—Cairo, Illinois
 19—(Sunday)
 20—Charleston, Missouri
 21—Sikeston, Missouri
 22—Dexter, Missouri
 23—Poplar Bluff, Missouri
 24—Neeleyville, Missouri
 25—Doniphan, Missouri
 26—(Sunday)
 27—Corning, Arkansas
 28—Paragould, Arkansas
 29—Jonesboro, Arkansas
 30—Rector, Arkansas

OCTOBER

1—Malden, Missouri
 2—Cape Girardeau, Missouri
 3—(Sunday)
 4—Moberly, Missouri
 5—Jackson, Missouri
 6—Lutesville, Missouri
 7—Fredericktown, Missouri
 8—De Soto, Missouri
 9—Pacific, Missouri
 10—(Sunday)
 11—Steelville, Missouri
 12—Salem, Missouri
 13—Rolla, Missouri
 14—Dixon, Missouri
 15—Lebanon, Missouri
 16—Marshfield, Missouri
 17—(Sunday)
 18—Bolivar, Missouri
 19—Ozark, Missouri
 20—Aurora, Missouri
 21—Rogers, Arkansas
 22—Monett, Missouri
 23—Galena, Kansas
 24—(Sunday)
 25—Girard, Kansas
 26—Pleasanton, Kansas
 27—Belton, Missouri
 28—Osceola, Missouri
 29—Ashgrove, Missouri
 30—Mount Vernon, Missouri
 31—(Sunday)

NOVEMBER

1—Springfield, Missouri
 2—Mountain Grove, Missouri
 3—Willow Springs, Missouri
 4—West Plains, Missouri
 5—Thayer, Missouri
 6—Black Rock, Arkansas

End of Season

The Monkey and the Hangover

BY JOHN HYNEK

The Tama News-Herald, Tama, Iowa, Thursday, January 31, 1952

Sent in by Louis Hayek, Toledo, Iowa

(Continued from March Issue)

Why He Came To Town

Vic landed in Cedar Rapids because he had many friends among show people. Somewhere in the East he heard from show people that an actor was running a small vaudeville theatre in Cedar Rapids, the first one the city had. The actor was making money by the barrel, but had no use for so much of it. He was burning up with desire to again act on the stage, and could hardly wait to find someone to buy him out. Vic appeared, pawned his watch, luggage and all other pawnable possessions to make a small payment down and the rest on installment for the theatre.

Immediately things began to hum at the theatre. Every performance was sold out and many ticket buyers had to be turned away.

Vic Has Two Big Troubles

Two serious troubles descended on Vic Hugo, and caused him loss of sleep. Trouble No. 1 was that in the back of his head was a terrific ambition to own a big circus some time. Here was the opportunity to get that pile of money to get a circus, but he couldn't get his fingers on the money fast enough—not enough seats in his theatre to accommodate the crowd, and seats in a theatre mean dollars—when not empty.

Trouble No. 2 was that Vic was giving the town a great vaudeville show, but so many people who wanted to see it couldn't get tickets. Vic's heart ached over the disappointment of these people. He was especially a friend of the horny-handed sons of toil. Before a working man got home, changed from overalls into his night-out clothes and had his supper, he couldn't get to the theatre early enough to get a seat. Vic's heart ached over the disappointment of the working stiffs.

But Vic had an imaginative mind and energy, and also a nose for important news. He, in fact, should have been a newspaper reporter. No important news escaped him. He soon knew who had the money in Cedar Rapids.

Vic called on these gentlemen with the money. He told them that Cedar Rapids was a wonderful city, and he was in love with it. The city was growing. But what the city needed was a large

vaudeville theatre. It was the duty of the gentlemen who were his listeners to do something for their city, their patriotic duty, their duty as boosters, as promoters of business. It, in fact, was their duty to keep the people entertained, for as Napoleon said, when people were entertained they worked hard and were satisfied. And it was the duty of these gentlemen as business leaders to draw people from the surrounding countryside to Cedar Rapids.

There were tears in his eyes when Vic told the gentlemen how people suffered and became grouchy because they couldn't get tickets for a good show, and how people in the surrounding country were getting bad ideas about Cedar Rapids because they couldn't get tickets for a good vaudeville show.

Vic explained that all of these troubles would end if the gentlemen joined him in a company which would build a vaudeville theatre large enough and good enough for such a thriving city as Cedar Rapids.

Having reminded the gentlemen of what loyalty to the home town means, Vic mentioned that no sacrifice was required of them. In fact, their money would be well invested. Vic told them to have a look any afternoon or evening and see the mobs buying tickets for his show and the mobs he had to turn away, because of a shortage of seats and standing room.

Vic also was a mathematician, but more practical than Sir Isaac Newton. While Newton devoted his time to watching apples fall from trees, Vic devoted his time to figuring the population of Cedar Rapids and surrounding territory, and then arriving at percentage of how many of these people would pay to see his vaudeville show.

Vic told the gentlemen they would get a large share of these percentages by simply signing notes in the bank or putting up cash.

The gentlemen told him they would have a look at the crowds. This, however, was only being polite. Cedar Rapids always did have and still has up-and-a-coming business men, who keep an eye on everything. These gentlemen had noticed those crowds buying tickets before Vic mentioned the fact. The gentlemen, in fact, had noticed with

regret that people were being turned away from the theatre because of a shortage of seats, and that this was a loss of good money. Some of the gentlemen really had been thinking that it would be nice to be in on a good thing such as Vic had.

Vic got the financial support right off the bat. The company built the Majestic theatre, a large vaudeville house, one of the best in Iowa. Having this fine theatre, Vic got busy signing up the best vaudeville acts obtainable, and the big theatre was full every afternoon performance and two performances every evening, including Sundays. This went on for some years.

Shows In Foreign Countries

On the quiet, Vic and his brother, Charlie, had two small circuses in Russia and two in Australia. This was so unusual that a new magazine devoted to show business wanted a story about these shows in the foreign countries.

This enabled me to make some extra dollars. I was recommended for writing the story about Vic's Russian and Australian shows for the magazine. Vic was against such a story, because he feared other showmen would jump into that field and he would have too much competition. But I told him that the magazine would get the story anyway, and I might as well be the one who got paid for writing it. So I wrote the story about how Charlie made trips to Russia and Australia now and then and sojourned in Cedar Rapids for brief periods to get advice from Vic, and how the shows were operated by natives in Australia and Russia, and the natives didn't steal all the money. Charlie was younger, and did everything Vic told him to do.

Vic Starts A Circus

Vic finally had enough money to start a circus. A money mogul in the East bought a circus for his son. The son got as far as Marshalltown, Iowa, with what little was left of that circus. Vic bought this, and dragged it on the dusty road from Marshalltown to Cedar Rapids, then a dirt road which later became the Lincoln Highway.

This circus was dragged to Kelty's pasture, north of Ellis park, on the west bank of the Cedar river, where a large tent was set up. An animal trainer who had worked with such big circuses as Barnum and Bailey and Ringling Bros., appeared on the scene, and began training animals, mostly ponies, dogs and horses at this early date.

I spent a lot of my spare time riding with Vic in his big, flashy car to Kelty's

pasture to watch the training of the animals. The modus operandi was for roustabouts to put ponies, dogs, and horses through their performance about eight hours a day.

The Stubborn Stallion

I remember well one pony stallion which refused to get this education. The animal trainer decided he would train that stallion come hell or high water. Instead of walking around in a circle the stallion would lie down. The roustabouts carried the stallion around the circle. After weeks of struggling with the stallion, they gave it up, and the stallion returned to an independent life on a farm.

Bill, The Gray Mule

Among the animals was an enormous gray mule, big as a house, which was a part of what Vic bought of the original circus. It was a smart, friendly mule and a friend of mine. This mule might be perhaps half a mile away exploring the Cedar river bank or just eating grass. But when you yelled, "Come on Bill," you finally heard tree limbs and brush cracking, and then Bill would come up to have his nose rubbed. My specialty was to call for Bill every time I arrived there, and I am quite sure that Bill never failed to come up and have his nose rubbed by me.

Through the winter the circus was housed in an empty lumber shed in the city where the animals were trained and where the elephants joined the show, after a dramatic incident which is another story.

Spring came. The big tent of Hugo Bros. Circus (Vic and Charley), the sideshow tent, cooking tent, dining tent were set up on the circus grounds in Cedar Rapids, near the railroad. On the railroad were sidetracked fourteen railroad cars which were to haul that show.

Acrobats arrived, more animals arrived, trained high school horses arrived, and sideshow freaks arrived, as also did experienced circus men who were to manage the different departments. I sure did have a great time visiting with the acrobats and hanging around the circus.

(Continued in next issue)

The Kings Go To The Circus

By the Editor

We have had a very good circus season so far this year. Western Ohio and Eastern Ohio have been very popular, if not successful, with several of the truck shows.

We started out on April 19th by attending Mills Bros. opening at Greenville, Ohio. The usual very fine banquet was held between the two shows, and for once the weather cooperated. It was a beautiful day and a beautiful lot, and the show for an opening day performance was wonderful. Ann, Sharon Sheiman, and Sally Conover, daughter of Dick Conover, rode elephants in the spec in the evening. The show is stronger than ever and the international flavor of the back-yard is very educational.

On April 30th we attended the Howes' Famous Hippodrome Circus at Connersville, Indiana. We visited with Gus and Rita Taliaffero and aside from the Rollo-Bolo act and the man on the Cloud Swing the show was very weak. (It has now closed). On May 1 Bob paid them another visit.

Sunday, May 25th, Bob went to Hamilton to see Rogers Bros., and started the biggest circus week of his long circus going career. Hagen Bros. were in Richmond on Monday and gave three shows at 4, 7 and 9, they had two full houses and a three-quarters at night. The circus, the Lions Club and everyone who saw it enjoyed it. It certainly was a very clean, pleasant circus to view. Tuesday, we journeyed to Muncie and Ann again rode in the spec on the Mills show. The show was fine and the elephant act one of the best ever. Bob again saw Mills on Wednesday and Thursday, and on Friday, we spent the day with Mills at St. Mary's Ohio. Enjoyed visiting with the Conovers, including Albert "Bunk," home from Korea, and also saw George Piercy. Ann and Sally dressed up again and rode the bulls. Guess Jack will have to put them on the payroll.

Aside from Hagens' day in Richmond the crowds were not very good at any of the shows.

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